

egg already spoken of, being dead white in color, without any spots or markings, and measuring $.65 \times .51$, and $.67 \times .53$ inches.

I think it unlikely that a second or later brood was raised by this species, as by the third week in June I have found several broods of young associated together, escorted each by the parent birds; in this way, forming very large flocks, they roam about through the oak groves.

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OBSERVED IN VENTURA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

BY BARTON W. EVERMANN.

THE following paper is based upon observations made during the residence of the writer at Santa Paula, from August, 1879, to July, 1881.

Ventura County lies on the coast between the counties of Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. The general direction of the coast line of this county is northwest and southeast. The Santa Barbara Islands lie to the southwest, Santa Cruz and Ana Capa being in plain view from San Buenaventura, which is the county seat and chief town of the county.

The surface of the county is, chiefly, very mountainous, consisting of many spurs or short ranges of the Coast Mountains. Near San Buenaventura, two small rivers empty into the ocean. These are the San Buenaventura and the Santa Clara. The first comes down from the north through a narrow valley with which the cañon called Canada de Largo is joined five or six miles from the coast. The Santa Clara River comes down from the east through the Santa Clara Valley, which varies from less than a mile to two or three miles in width until within eight miles of the ocean when it suddenly widens into a low, level plain many miles in extent. Near where the valley widens is the little village of Saticoy where Dr. J. G. Cooper, who has done so much to elucidate the natural history of the West, once spent a short time collecting. Eight miles further up the valley, or sixteen miles from the coast, is the village of Santa Paula, in the vicinity of which were made most of the observations recorded in this paper. Along the river are small, isolated groves of cottonwoods and

willows, with here and there an occasional sycamore. Scattered irregularly over the valley in its narrow portion are clumps of live-oaks, which are still more numerous in the cañons and on the adjacent foothills. Further up the sides of the mountains are dense growths of chaparral. At many places in the valley are large patches of prickly pear (*Opuntia tuna*), where the Cactus Wren, Mockingbird, Roadrunner, etc., are most numerous. The cottonwoods and larger willows are the chief nesting places of Crows, Long-eared Owls, and Red-bellied Hawks. The Western Red-tail most usually selects the taller sycamores. The live-oaks are frequented by the Least Tit, Brewer's Blackbird, Lawrence's Goldfinch, and the White-tailed Kite. The California Jay, Brown Towhee, White-rumped Shrike, California Mockingbird, etc., usually nest in the undergrowth of sage and other chaparral which is found covering nearly all uncultivated parts of the valley and cañons. Along the coast, near the mouth of the Santa Clara River, are several small lagoons or ponds where vast numbers of Ducks, Geese, and other water birds winter, and where a few species remain to breed.

I have admitted into the following list 202 species, of which number 201 were identified by me personally. The remaining species (*Empidonax obscurus*) is admitted to a place in the list on account of the finding in the county of what seem to be its eggs. The eggs were brought to me by a boy, and I have no doubt but they are of this species.

By admitting to the list only the results of my own observations, the number of species is not as great as it would otherwise have been. It has been my aim to make a reliable, rather than a long, list. Careful observations, especially among the higher mountains and along the coast, will doubtless add several species to the number now recorded.

The nomenclature and classification adopted in this paper is that of the new American Ornithologists' Union 'Check-List.'*

The species that are known to breed in the county are indicated by a star preceding the name. The number in parenthesis after each name is that of the new A. O. U. Check-List.

1. *Æchmophorus occidentalis*. (1.) WESTERN GREBE.—Seen occasionally in the bay in winter. I have a fine specimen which was caught

* [From advance-sheets of the A. O. U. 'Code and Check List,' by desire of the author.—EDD.]

December 10, 1880. in the Santa Clara River, above Santa Paula, eighteen miles from the coast.

2. **Colymbus nigricollis californicus*. (4.) AMERICAN EARED GREBE.—Rather common in winter; a few breed in the marshes along the coast.

3. **Podilymbus podiceps*. (6.) PIED-BILLED GREBE.—COMMON resident in the lagoons, where they breed sparingly.

4. *Urinator imber*. (7.) LOON.—The Loon is rather common during winter along the coast and in the bay.

5. *Urinator pacificus*. (10.) PACIFIC LOON.—A rare winter visitant. I have seen it occasionally about Rincon Point, and once in the bay at San Buenaventura.

6. *Cerorhinca monocerata*. (15.) RHINOCEROS AUKLET.—All the evidence I have of the occurrence of this species within our limits is a young bird picked up on the beach near San Buenaventura in January.

7. *Ptycorhamphus aleuticus*. (16.) CASSIN'S AUKLET.—Cassin's Auklet is rather common about the Santa Barbara Islands, where it is said to breed.

8. *Cepphus columba*. (29.) PIGEON GUILLEMOT.—Rather common about the Santa Barbara Islands; most numerous on San Nicolas, where it breeds. I was informed that it breeds also upon Ana Capa Island.

9. *Uria troile californica*. (30a.) CALIFORNIA GUILLEMOT.—I saw this species once in summer near the wharf at San Buenaventura, and regard it as a rare straggler from the Farallones, where it breeds in great numbers.

10. *Stercorarius parasiticus*. (37.) PARASITIC JAEGER.—I have frequently seen this Jaeger along the coast above San Buenaventura in winter.

11. *Larus glaucescens*. (44.) GLAUCCOUS-WINGED GULL.—A winter visitant; not common.

12. *Larus occidentalis*. (49.) WESTERN GULL.—This is doubtless the most abundant Gull to be seen on our coast. It is resident, and breeds in great numbers on most parts of the California Coast.

13. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus*. (51a.) AMERICAN HERRING GULL.—This Gull is a very abundant resident.—in winter perhaps quite equalling *L. occidentalis* in numbers.

14. *Larus cachinnans*. (52.) PALLAS'S GULL.—A winter resident; not common.

15. *Larus californicus*. (53.) CALIFORNIA GULL.—A rather common winter visitant.

16. *Larus delawarensis*. (54.) RING-BILLED GULL.—Winter visitant; not common.

17. *Larus brachyrhynchus*. (55.) SHORT-BILLED GULL.—In December, 1879, I found a dead specimen of this small Gull lying on the beach near San Buenaventura. It was badly decayed and could not be saved.

18. *Larus heermanni*. (57.) HEERMANN'S GULL.—A winter visitant; not very common.

19. *Larus philadelphiae*. (60.) BONAPARTE'S GULL.—Common in the spring and fall, and seen occasionally in winter.

20. *Sterna maxima*. (65.) ROYAL TERN.—This is the only Tern I identified with certainty as found on the coast of Ventura County. It may be seen at almost any season of the year, and I infer that it must breed on the adjacent islands.

21. *Diomedea albatrus*. (82.) SHORT-TAILED ALBATROSS.—Seen frequently along the coast and in the bay in winter.

22. *Phalacrocorax diplophus cincinatus*. (120.) WHITE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—Abundant along the coast in winter. I found them very abundant about Rincon Point. They doubtless breed on the islands.

23. *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*. (122.) BRANDT'S CORMORANT.—This is the most abundant Cormorant of the California coast, where it is resident. They breed in great numbers on the Farallone Islands, and probably breed on Ana Capa.

24. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*. (125.) AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN.—Often seen among the lagoonas in winter. In July, 1880, I found scores of this Pelican on the plains of the San Joaquin near Modesto.

25. *Merganser serrator*. (130.) RED-BREASTED MERGANSER.—This species is reported as common in most parts of California, but I can regard it as only a very rare winter resident of Ventura County.

26. *Lophodytes cucullatus*. (131.) HOODED MERGANSER.—The Hooded Merganser is a common resident during the rainy season. A few may remain to breed.

27. *Anas boschas*. (132.) MALLARD.—Common during the winter, frequenting fresh water. I am inclined to believe it breeds in the county, but I never found its nest there.

28. *Anas strepera*. (135.) GADWALL.—A common winter resident. More shy and quiet than most other species, feeding most usually after twilight.

29. *Dafila acuta*. (143.) PINTAIL.—A winter resident; not common.

30. *Anas americana*. (137.) BALDPATE.—The Baldpate, or Widgeon, is one of the most abundant of our winter Ducks. Few, if any, remain to breed.

31. **Anas carolinensis*. (139.) GREEN-WINGED TEAL.—This is one of the most abundant and generally diffused of our Ducks, it being found during the wet season in almost every little stream or pool. A few breed in the county.

32. **Anas cyanoptera*. (141.) CINNAMON TEAL.—The Cinnamon Teal is resident in the county, but is most common during the summer.

33. *Spatula clypeata*. (142.) SHOVELLER.—This Duck is a common winter resident.

34. **Aix sponsa*. (144.) WOOD DUCK.—This handsome Duck is found throughout the year in greater or less abundance.

35. **Aythya americana*. (146.) REDHEAD.—This seems to be a common resident of the county. I obtained what I take to be its eggs in May.

36. *Aythya vallisneria*. (147.) CANVAS-BACK.—The Canvas-back is a common winter resident.

37. *Aythya marila nearctica*. (148.) SCAUP DUCK.—A common resident along the coast from October to April.

38. *Aythya affinis*. (149.) LESSER SCAUP DUCK.—A winter resident; not so common as the preceding.

39. *Glaucionetta clangula americana*. (151.) AMERICAN GOLDEN-EYE.—Winter resident, not common.

40. *Charitonetta albeola*. (153.) BUFFLE-HEAD.—This little Duck is a common winter resident.

41. *Oidemia deglandi*. (165.) WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—This species I have seen occasionally in winter in the surf along the Ventura Beach.

42. *Erismatura rubida*. (167.) RUDDY DUCK.—A common winter resident.

43. *Chen hyperborea*. (169.) LESSER SNOW GOOSE.—On November 20, 1880, I secured the only individual of this variety I ever saw in the county. In company with my friend, Mr. J. B. Alvord, I was spending a day gunning among the lagoonas near the mouth of the Santa Clara River. We had stationed ourselves on dry ground between two lagoons, and were having excellent success in bringing down various species of Ducks as they, encouraged by the early morning winds, were flying from one body of water to the other. The Ducks flew usually low and were easily gotten. Thousands of Geese (*C. hyperboreus nivalis*, *C. rossii*, and *Anser albifrons gambeli*) flew overhead, but all too high for us. Finally, however, I saw a single one coming directly towards me with a number of Ducks, all flying low. Of course I brought it down, and was much pleased, on picking it up, to find I had secured a good-plumaged female of this rather rare species.

Mr. L. Belding of Stockton, Cal., regards this as a very rare species in that State. He secured one at Marysville in the winter of 1874, and another at Stockton, October 18, 1878.—these being the only ones seen by him. Each one when shot was either alone or with a small flock of Ducks. He left the wings of the first specimen with a hunting club, which was not able to duplicate them. (See Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1878, 44.)

43a. *Chen hyperborea nivalis* (169 a.) SNOW GOOSE.—An abundant winter resident.

44. *Chen rossii*. (170.) ROSS'S SNOW GOOSE.—Frequent in winter, associated with *C. hyperboreus nivalis*, from which it can be distinguished by its cry, which greatly resembles that of the small Cackling Goose (*Branta canadensis minima*).

45. *Anser albifrons gambeli*. (171 a.) AMERICAN WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE.—This is, perhaps, the most abundant of all the Geese that visit California during the winter, and is usually the first to arrive. So abundant is it in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and so destructive are its ravages upon the growing wheat crop, that farmers often find it necessary to employ men by the month to hunt and drive them from their fields.

46. *Branta canadensis*. (172.) CANADA GOOSE.—A winter resident, but not so common as the preceding.

47. *Branta canadensis minima*. (172 c.) CACKLING GOOSE.—This is a common winter resident, arriving as early as October, and frequents not only the salt-marshes along the coast but also the interior valleys. It is said to be more abundant in the northern part of the State, where, with *A. gambeli*, it does great damage to the young wheat.

48. *Olor columbianus*. (180.) WHISTLING SWAN.—A frequent winter visitant to the lagnñas along the coast.

49. *Olor buccinator*. (181.) TRUMPETER SWAN.—Winter visitant with the preceding species, but more common.

50. *Plegadis guarauna*. (187.) WHITE-FACED GLOSSY IBIS.—One specimen gotten near Santa Paula, May 14. This is the only specimen I ever saw in Ventura County, but on the San Joaquin Plains I found them common in July.

51. **Botaurus lentiginosus*. (190.) AMERICAN BITTERN.—Resident; not common.

52. **Ardea herodias*. (194.) GREAT BLUE HERON.—A common resident. Several pairs nested in the cottonwoods near the mouth of the Santa Clara River.

53. **Ardea egretta*. (196.) AMERICAN EGRET.—Common resident among the marshes near the coast.

54. **Ardea candidissima*. (197.) SNOWY HERON.—Resident; most frequent near the mouth of the Santa Clara River.

55. **Ardea virescens*. (201.) GREEN HERON.—Summer resident; not common. A few probably winter in the county, but most all go further south.

56. *Nycticorax nycticorax nævius*. (202.) BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON.—Probably resident, but not common.

57. *Grus mexicana*. (206.) SANDHILL CRANE.—Occasionally seen during the migrations.

58. **Fulica americana*. (221.) AMERICAN COOT.—An abundant winter resident, both on the shore and in the streams and marshes. A few breed in the lagnñas.

59. *Recurvirostra americana*. (225.) AMERICAN AVOCET.—I have a single specimen of this species taken on the coast near San Buenaventura, April 28, 1881. This is the only record I have of its occurrence in the county.

60. *Gallinago delicata*. (230.) WILSON'S SNIPE.—A rare winter resident, but a common spring migrant.

61. *Tringa minutilla*. (242.) LEAST SANDPIPER.—An abundant winter resident along the shore.

62. **Ereunetes occidentalis*. (247.) WESTERN SANDPIPER.—Rather common resident.

63. *Calidris arenaria*. (248.) SANDERLING.—Abundant during the winter along the seashore.

64. *Limosa fedoa*. (249.) MARBLED GODWIT.—Probably resident along the coast. I obtained specimens near San Buenaventura, April 28.

65. *Totanus melanoleucus*. (254.) GREATER YELLOW-LEGS.—Seen frequently along the Santa Clara River. Probably resident.

66. *Numenius longirostris*. (264.) LONG-BILLED CURLEW.—Frequent along the coast except in summer prior to July, when young birds appear.

67. *Numenius hudsonicus*. (265.) HUDSONIAN CURLEW.—A winter visitant; not common.

68. **Hæmatopus palliatus*. (286.) AMERICAN OYSTER-CATCHER.—Seen occasionally along the sea coast in summer.

69. **Hæmatopus bachmani*. (287.) BLACK OYSTER-CATCHER.—More common as a summer resident than the former. Breeds sparingly.

70. *Charadrius squatarola*. (270.) BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER.—Rather common along the coast in winter.

71. **Ægialitis vocifera*. (273.) KILLDEER.—Rather abundant resident.

72. **Ægialitis nivosa*. (278.) SNOWY PLOVER.—Resident along the coast and rather abundant.

73. **Oreortyx pictus*. (292.) MOUNTAIN PARTRIDGE.—Resident in the mountains; not common. I knew of but two or three small flocks in the county.

74. **Callipepla californica*. (294.) CALIFORNIA PARTRIDGE.—Very abundant resident. Nests in March and April. Albinism is not infrequent; I have three beautiful cream-colored specimens secured near Santa Paula.

75. *Columba fasciata*. (312.) BAND-TAILED PIGEON.—The only specimen of this bird I ever saw in the county I got February 28, 1880, near the mouth of Santa Paula Cañon. It was a female, and was feeding upon the young balls of the sycamore, no less than thirty-five of which I took from its crop. Residents of Santa Paula inform me that it was common only a few years ago.

76. **Zenaidura macroura*. (316.) MOURNING DOVE.—An abundant resident. Nests early in April.

77. **Pseudogryphus californianus*. (324.) CALIFORNIA VULTURE.—Resident among the higher mountains, descending only to the valleys and cañons to feed upon carrion.

78. **Cathartes aura*. (325.) TURKEY VULTURE.—An abundant resident. During the winter more than a hundred roosted in a grove of eucalyptus trees near Santa Paula.

79. **Elanus leucurus*. (328.) WHITE-TAILED KITE.—A rare resident. I knew of only four or five pairs in the Santa Clara Valley from the coast to the Sespe,—about twenty miles. I obtained full sets of eggs April 12.

80. **Circus hudsonius*. (331.) MARSH HARRIER.—Resident; rather common. Nests on the ground early in April.

81. *Accipiter velox*. (332.) SHARP-SHINNED HAWK.—Seen occasionally during the winter. Probably breeds sparingly in the county.

82. **Accipiter cooperi*. (333.) COOPER'S HAWK.—Resident, but not common.

83. **Buteo borealis calurus*. (337*b*.) WESTERN RED-TAIL.—An abundant resident. Nests early in March,—sometimes even in February.

84. **Buteo lineatus elegans*. (339*b*.) RED-BELLIED HAWK.—A common resident. Nests not quite as early as *calurus*.

85. **Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis*. (347*a*.) AMERICAN TROUGH-LEGGED HAWK.—A rare resident; most numerous in winter.

86. **Haliaeetus leucocephalus*. (352.) BALD EAGLE.—Resident; frequent along the coast. I was always sure to see a pair or more whenever I visited Rincon Point,—up the coast from San Buenaventura.

87. **Tinnunculus sparverius*. (360.) SPARROW HAWK.—A common resident. I have found it nesting in the deserted nests of the Magpie.

88. **Strix flammeus americanus*. (365.) AMERICAN BARN OWL.—An abundant resident in suitable places. It most frequents the deeper barancas, steep cliffs, and the dense foliage of live-oaks. In winter this Owl seems somewhat gregarious, as I have seen a drove of more than fifty among the oaks in Canada de Largo, six or seven miles from San Buenaventura.

Breeds in February and March, in holes in the steep banks of barancas, in cliffs, in old buildings, or in hollow trees.

On March 5, 1881, my friend, Fred Cary, and I secured over 45 eggs from Ricker's Baranca, which is just east of Santa Paula. We found the Owls occupying holes in the sides of the baranca. By means of a rope we were able to get down to the nests, into eleven of which we dug. One of these contained nothing. From six others we took 44 eggs, the sets ranging from six to ten eggs each. Of the remaining nests, one contained 5 eggs, another 6 eggs and 1 young bird, another 4 eggs and 5 young birds, varying in size from one just from the shell to one a week or more old.

89. **Asio wilsonianus*. (366.) AMERICAN LONG-EARED OWL.—An abundant resident; found dozing during the day among the live-oaks or the groves of willows along the streams. The old nests of Crows are generally appropriated by it in which to lay its eggs. I have found eggs of this Owl as early as February 13.

90. **Megascops asio*. (373.) SCREECH OWL.—Common resident. I am not able to refer any specimens I have seen to any other variety.

91. **Bubo virginianus subarcticus*. (375*a*.) WESTERN HORNED OWL.—Resident, common; nests early in February.

92. **Speotyto cunicularia hypogæa*. (378.) BURROWING OWL.—Resident; common and generally distributed. Nests early in April, laying from 5 to 11 eggs.

93. **Geococcyx californianus*. (385.) ROAD-RUNNER.—A rather common resident; most frequent among the cactus patches. Nests early in March and April.

94. **Ceryle alcyon*. (390.) BELTED KINGFISHER.—Resident, but does not seem to be common in any part of the county.

95. **Dryobates villosus harrisi*. (393*c*.) HARRIS'S WOODPECKER.—Resident throughout the year; common. Nests early in March. I have

frequently observed a tendency toward albinism among individuals of this species.

96. **Dryobates pubescens gairdneri*. (394a.) GAIRDNER'S WOODPECKER.—A common resident and generally distributed.

97. **Dryobates nuttalli*. (397.) NUTTALL'S WOODPECKER.—Resident, but not so common as the preceding.

98. **Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi*. (407.) CALIFORNIA WOODPECKER.—Resident and locally abundant. About ten miles from Santa Paula is the Ojai Valley which, shut off from the coast winds by a spur of the Coast Range, is thickly set with live- and white-oaks. Among these this Woodpecker is very common, and is by far the most conspicuous bird of the valley. Almost all the available space on the dead limbs seems to have been used by these industrious birds, which drill these limbs full of holes, and into these they drive great quantities of acorns.

99. *Melanerpes torquatus*. (408.) LEWIS'S WOODPECKER.—I have taken this handsome Woodpecker at Newhall (40 miles up the Valley from Santa Paula) and at Pacheco Pass, but never saw it but once (November 2, 1880) in Ventura County. I think it only a winter visitant here.

100. **Colaptes cafer*. (413.) RED-SHAFTED FLICKER.—An abundant resident. Individuals are occasionally seen grading into *hybridus*. On January 12, 1881, I took a most beautiful albino of this species.

(To be concluded.)

AN ORNITHOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCE IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

BY WILLIAM BREWSTER.

QUITE unaccountably the mountain region of Western North Carolina, Northwestern South Carolina, and Northern Georgia has remained, up to the present time, a *terra incognita* to ornithologists. Speculations as to its bird-fauna have been more or less freely indulged in, and a general impression has prevailed that many of our so-called northern birds regularly summer and breed there; while daring prophets have even hinted that it would prove the home of certain 'lost' or imperfectly known species, such as Cuvier's Kinglet, the Carbonated Warbler, Bachman's Warbler, etc. But despite these interesting probabilities and possibilities, the march of actual investigation has been directed into other channels, leaving the 'Land of the Sky' but little better known than in the days of Wilson and Audubon.